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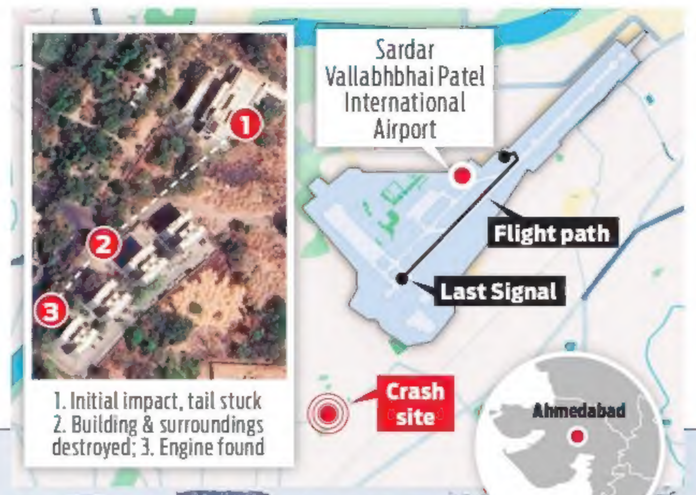

1. Initial impact, tail stuck 2. Building & surroundings destroyed; 3. Engine found

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The plane crashed after reaching an altitude of about 825 feet. The tail got stuck on the roof of a medical college hostel as plane burst into flames after hitting the ground.

The first series of video grabs show how the flight ascended and started descending before crashing. (Right) The tail got stuck in the roof of medical college hostel

MAYDAY! MAYDAY!

241 on flight dead | **169** INDIANS **52** BRITISH **7** PORTUGUESE | **1** CANADIAN **2** PILOTS **10** CABIN CREW | **50*** killed on ground | *Final toll to be out after DNA tests on bodies | **1** Survivor (UK)

The tragedy is heartbreaking beyond words. I've been in touch with ministers and authorities to assist those affected

Narendra Modi, PM

I let them know that anything we can do – we'll be over there immediately. But it was a horrific crash. One of the worst in aviation history

Donald Trump, US President

Scenes emerging of the plane crash are devastating. Being updated as the situation develops

Keir Starmer, UK PM

Difficult day for all of us. Now focused entirely on needs of our passengers, crew members, their families

Campbell Wilson, CEO, Air India

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

PROBABLY among the worst disasters in India's aviation history, an Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, operating from Ahmedabad to Gatwick, crashed just minutes after takeoff, leaving at least 290 people feared dead on Thursday afternoon.

The aircraft, carrying 242 people — 230 passengers and 12 crew — went down in the densely populated Meghaninagar area near the Forensic Cross Road shortly after taking off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport at 1.38 pm. The crash occurred at around 2 pm, and within moments huge flames engulfed residential buildings and commercial structures near the impact zone. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) set up a probe team.

Among the passengers on board were 169 Indians, 53 British citizens, seven Portuguese nationals, one Canadian, and former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani. He was reportedly going to London to meet his daughter.

Authorities initially feared there were no survivors. "It appears there are no survivors in the plane crash," Commissioner GS Malik told reporters immediately after the crash. However, in the evening, he confirmed that one passenger — seated in 11A — had been miraculously rescued and was undergoing treatment at a hospital. "We cannot confirm the final toll yet, especially as the aircraft crashed in a residential area," he said.

The devastation on the ground was horrifying as the crash site included Atulyam Flats, home to staff from the Civil Hospital. According to sources, approximately 50 bodies have been recovered so far. At the time of the crash, nearly 200 people were believed to be inside the three residential buildings housing 94 flats, raising fears that the toll may significantly rise.

The aircraft crashed onto the BJ Medical College PG hostel, collapsing parts of four buildings, killing at least 50 medical students. Six bodies have been recovered from the hostel so far. There was utter chaos at Ahmedabad's Civil Hospital, with the hospital ran short of body bags.

The ill-fated aircraft was commanded by Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, a veteran with over 8,200 hours of flying experience, and First Officer Clive Kundar, who had logged approximately 1,100 hours.

As fire and rescue teams battled the inferno and sifted through debris, Home Minister Amit Shah visited the injured and chaired an emergency meeting with Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu and Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel. They reviewed the ongoing rescue efforts and discussed the next steps in managing the fallout of the catastrophic crash.

Across the world, UN chief Antonio Guterres, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney were among scores of world leaders who offered condolences. Guterres said he was 'deeply saddened' by the plane crash. President Putin said, "Please convey my sympathy and support to the families of those killed and my wishes for a swift recovery to those injured in the crash." P9

In a nutshell

Air India 171

Boeing 787 Dreamliner

- Ahmedabad to Gatwick
- Departure: 1339 IST • Runway No: 23

LETHAL IMPACT

- Mayday call in two minutes but no contact after that. Mayday call is given at a time of full emergency
- The plane was flying very low and it crashed into the residential quarters of doctors and nursing staff of civil hospital and BJ Medical college

PILOTS

Captain Sumeet Sabharwal: 8,200 flying hours of experience

First officer Clive Kundar: 1,100 hours of flying experience

WORST FLIGHT DISASTER IN TERMS OF CASUALTIES

The deadliest crash was in 1996, when a Saudia and Kazakhstan Airlines flight collided mid-air near Charkhi Dadri, Haryana, killing 349 people

PREVIOUS LETHAL DISASTER

India's worst single-aircraft crash was on Jan 1, 1978, when Air India's Boeing 747, Emperor Ashoka, crashed, killing all 213 onboard shortly after takeoff to Dubai

RECENT TRAGEDIES

- **2020** Air India Express with 190 onboard skidded off Kozhikode runway. 21 died others survived
- **2010** Air India Express plane from Dubai crashed at Mangalore with 166 onboard. Eight survived
- **1985** An Air India flight was bombed mid-air; all 329 died

EX-GUJARAT CM RUPANI AMONG DEAD IN CRASH

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

FORMER Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani was among the dead in the plane crash.

Gujarat BJP President and Union Minister CR Paatil confirmed the worst: "Vijay Rupani was also on the flight to meet his family. He is a victim of this accident. This is a huge loss for the BJP."

Vijay Rupani

Contradictions deepened when a close aide of Rupani insisted he had boarded a different flight. Yet a leaked passenger manifest clearly listed "Vijay Ramniklal Rupani" as the 12th traveller in the Business Class Z-category on the doomed aircraft.

Sources close to the former CM revealed that he was planning the London visit to bring back his wife, Anjali Rupani. Rupani's Rajkot residence was a grim picture with tense family members, neighbours, and well-wishers gathered in stunned silence.

Formal investigation initiated, says minister

NEW DELHI: Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said. "A formal investigation has been initiated by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), in line with international protocols set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)." A team of US investigators (National Transportation Safety Board) will assist the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau with its investigation.

Boeing safety concerns after Dreamliner accident

NEW DELHI: Air India crash rings safety alarm bells for Boeing planes. The fresh accident has raised questions on the safety on its widebody Dreamliner planes which were considered one of the safest planes | P13

MIRACULOUS: RAMESH LIVES TO TELL TALE

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

Ramesh Vishwaskumar

MIRACLES do happen. Once in a while there are instances when humans do cheat death. One such example was when one person walked out of the Air India crash on Thursday. What seemed even outrageously miraculous was the way he walked out from the inferno with some bruises. He was shaken. Ramesh Vishwaskumar, a British citizen seated on 11A survived a tragedy that 241 other on board could not.

"Thirty seconds after takeoff, there was a loud noise," he told local reporters, all of whom had milled around him with deep disbelief. "There were dead bodies around me. I got scared. I got up and ran. There were pieces of the plane everywhere."

His chest, eyes, and feet bore "impact injuries," but he lived to tell the tale. In the viral video now making rounds on social media, Ramesh can be seen limping away from the wreckage, clothes torn, blood streaking down his face—an image etched with trauma and raw survival. Originally from India, Ramesh has lived in London for the past 20 years with his wife and child. His return trip was supposed to be a brief family reunion; instead, it turned into a brush with death.

But the trauma didn't end with survival. His brother Ajay Vishwaskumar, who was also on the same flight, is currently 'missing'. Two of Ramesh's friends have rushed to Ahmedabad from Diu, hoping for another miracle and fearing the worst. Ramesh was rushed to a hospital by ambulance soon after escaping the wreckage. Doctors have termed his injuries non-life-threatening, but emotional toll will take time to heal.

This could go down as one of the worst plane crashes in the history of aviation

Tata Group to provide ₹1 crore to kin of deceased, to take care of medical needs

Govt offices start to move out as Central Vista project picks up pace

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

MARKING a major milestone in the Central Vista redevelopment, the process of vacating iconic administrative buildings such as North Block, South Block, and Shastri, Nirman, Udyog and Krishi Bhawans has formally begun. Ministries housed in these decades-old structures are set to shift to the newly built Common Central Secretariat (CCS) Building 3, which is now in its final stage of readiness.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will occupy over 200 rooms on the 4th to 6th floors. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) would get at least 100 rooms on the 3rd floor, which it will share with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, allotted 25 rooms.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Department of Personnel and Training, currently in Shastri Bhawan and North Block, have been allotted 150 and 90 rooms across the lower floors. The Ministry of Rural Development and the MSME Ministry, including the Land Resources and Development Commissioner, will move from Udyog, Krishi and Nirman Bhawan to the 2nd and ground floors of CCS 3.

A CPWD facilitation desk has been set up to coordinate the move. Nodal officers will assist with movement plans, parking, safety features and services.

The relocation marks a historic transition from buildings that have housed India's administration for decades. North and South Blocks were conceptualised over a century ago when the capital shifted from Kolkata to Delhi. The Bhawans, built 60 to 70 years ago, currently house 51 ministries and departments.

Ministries in Nirman and Shastri Bhawan were recently asked to prepare for relocation by October or November to enable construction of CCS Buildings 4, 5 and 9. Interior work and digital infrastructure in CCS 3 are currently being finalised.

HC grants interim bail to RCB, DNA representatives

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

IN a major setback to the city police and the State Government, the Karnataka High Court on Thursday granted interim bail to four representatives of Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited (RCSPL) and DNA Networks Private Limited, who were arrested on June 6 in connection with the stampede that occurred on June 4 outside M Chinnaswamy Stadium during RCB's IPL victory celebrations.

Pointing out a series of lapses on the part of the city police, starting from the registration of the crime against the accused and till their arrest without following the due procedures of law, the high court passed the interim order for the immediate release of the four accused — **Nikhil Sosale**, Marketing and Revenue Head of RCSPL, Sunil Mathew, Director, and Kiran Kumar S, Event Manager of DNA Networks Private Limited, and Shamant NP Mavinakere, a freelancer with DNA.

The petitioners moved the high court with a contention that though the FIRs do not specifically name or arraign them as accused persons either in their individual capacity or on behalf of RCB or DNA, they were arrested pursuant to directions issued by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in a press meet held at 9 pm on June 5.

Referring to this, the high court noted that the city police did not specifically deny the said contention in their statement of objections, and there is only a vague and evasive denial. P3

EXPRESS READ

'Fresh caste census will be conducted'

BENGALURU: CM Siddaramaiah on Thursday declared that a fresh Socio-Economic and Educational Survey survey (caste census) will be conducted to address the concerns of all communities, including Veerashaiva Lingayaths and Vokkaligas. The decision was taken in a special Cabinet meeting | P4

'Attack on Tagore's home a disgrace'

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday strongly condemned the vandalisation of the ancestral home of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in Bangladesh by a mob and termed the violent attack a "disgrace" to the memory and inclusive philosophy espoused by the poet.

40 PAGES, INCLUDING 24 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)